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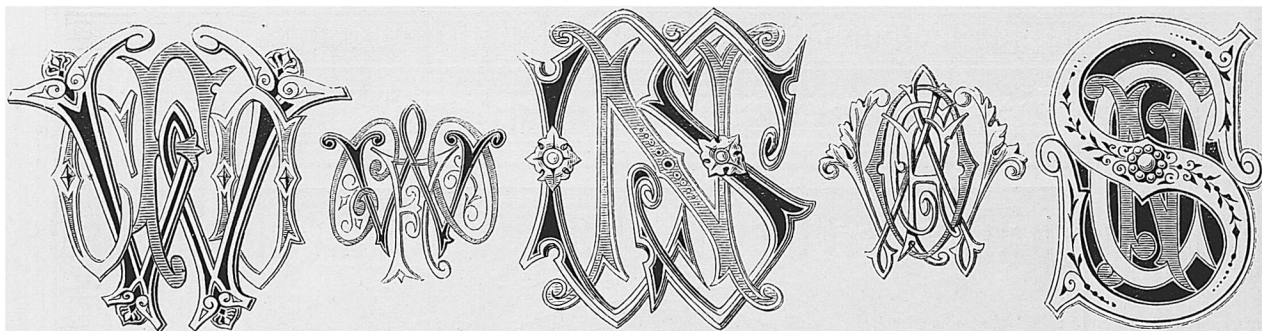
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Nos. 20—24. Initial Letters designed by Mr. J. Schnorr, Stuttgart.

VARIOUS.

Photographic Hints.

It is sometimes desirable, if not necessary, that a photographer be able to take a picture of a specified object without including in the view any other undesirable object, as, for example, an old brick wall. The following method is exceedingly suggestive, and, if skilfully managed, very good. We once saw it practically tested by a photographer under the following circumstances;

In a certain garden in London, there is a beautiful statue of black marble which had been repeatedly brought under the "eye" of the camera, but always without pictorial success, on account of the close proximity of one or two trees and a brick house, which were only twenty feet behind the statue, and which invariably appeared in the picture with a most unbecoming and undesirable degree of prominence. Having been consulted by the proprietor, we suggested that the offensive brick building might be excluded from the view presented to the camera, either by placing a large background of uniform color behind it, or, still more readily, by burning a quantity of damp hay between the statue and the house, the smoke from which would obliterate the details of the latter. This advice was promptly acted upon; and the wind being in a favorable direction — that is, blowing from the direction of the camera towards the statue — three heaps of litter were quickly raked together and ignited, these being placed in a line about ten feet behind the statue and a few feet apart. A plate was now exposed, and, so fantastical had been the gyrations of the smoke and so well had it played its part that, when the photographer developed the picture, the statue stood out in excellent, nay brilliant, definition on a background upon which neither trees or brick edifice were visible. The success of the experiment was most complete. In repeating this experiment, however, care must be taken that not a curl of smoke, even of the most delicate kind, be allowed to obtrude between the camera and the object being photographed, otherwise failure will be the certain result, for smoke is frequently of a highly intense actinic color.

British Journal of Photography.

Ornamental Woodwork.

C. Muratori, of London, makes wood ornaments by kneading alum, glue, and sawdust, with boiling water, into a dough which is pressed into moulds. When dry, it is hard and capable of taking a high polish. Similar ornaments, of greater beauty and resembling carved woodwork very closely, are being made in this city by pressing veneers between steel or copper dyes.

New Fireproof Construction.

The *Building News* publishes the following description of an invention in which iron or steel, hollow earthenware and concrete or cement are the materials employed in combination. The walls, partitions, floors and roofs are constructed of cells of metal in which are placed earthenware pipes, the sides of which are splayed outward at the base to form a skewback. The pipes and iron flitches are bolted together so as to constitute composite girders. Between each skewback, an earthenware hollow pipe with oval shaped head and flat soffit, channeled and indented to receive the plaster of the ceiling, is placed, with sufficient room left between the composite girders to receive a charge of cement concrete. The upper surface of the floor is leveled and covered with strong cement grout. Holes are left in the soffits of the hollow pipes for ventilation, and the pipes themselves may be utilized to convey warm air through the building. In walls and partitions, the iron and steel lengths are placed in a vertical, in floors, in a horizontal, and in roofs in an angular position.

In partitions, wire is used instead of lath to receive the concrete and plaster. The proportions of the concrete are six parts of broken brick, slag and sand, and one of cement, well mixed. The floors are made in one body and not in layers. This method is said to be cheap, to require no skilled labor to construct, to furnish thorough ventilation and to require comparatively no repairs.

New Process of Bleaching Animal Textile Fabrics.

MM. Samal and Berouson have recently patented, says the *Chronique de l'Industrie*, a new method of bleaching animal textile fabrics by means of a feeble solution of the sulphurets of sodium and potassium. These products act in a remarkable manner in removing the gum in preparing silk and in scouring wool. In practice, in the first case, the bath should be boiling; in the second, the temperature of the alkaline sulphuret should not exceed 50° C. The more difficult it may be to remove the gum and prepare the silk, the less the solution should be sulphuretted; in some instances the protosulphuret may be employed.

The inventors have also used in the same manner the aluminates of soda and potash.